

LIFE OF MONTY

SEPTEMBER 16, 1983 still

COLD BEERS - I mean,
GO BEARS - the first one's more appropriate

50¢

Howaya, howaya, howaya, howaya? This here is issue 34 of, uh, what's thing called? Oh yes, LIFE OF MONTY, straight from, er, ooh, Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904, phone (415) 461-2692, noon to midnight, and keep in mind I begin school August 22 but I don't have a place to live in Berkeley as of yet. I also don't smoke, drink, or subscribe to either DIPLOMACY WORLD or GRAUSTARK. I do subscribe to, however, THE GENERAL, STRATEGY & TACTICS, ARFS, JAMES COMPUTER, and I'm a regular contributor and reader of ALARMS & EXCURSIONS, even if Lee Gold can't remember where I live. 'Hokay? Enough of the introductions....let's get right to

MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT is brought to you - aw, who cares?

Time to get back on the soapbox. It seems that Bern Sampson has come out with STARS (Sampson's Totally Awesome Rating System) (well, something like that). Bern's system is simply the Calhamer Point Count with two limitations: games which began more than five years ago don't count, and games which end on or before 1904 don't count. As you may have guessed, spots one and two are occupied by Kathy Byrne and Jack Masters.

Big deal. Do we really need another rating system, especially one which makes the same presumptions as all of the others - mainly that a win as Austria is worth just as much as a win as Russia? Let's face it - Diplomacy is NOT a balanced game. It is not CLOSE. Proof by example: "Kathy Byrne must be a good player if she has three wins as Italy." Italy is, obviously, a tough country; if it is just as easy to win with Italy as any other country, three wins as Italy wouldn't mean that much. Can anyone out there name a system besides mine which doesn't treat each country equally? Also, losses "just don't exist", so you can have 3 wins, 2 2-way draws, and 56 eliminations in 1901, and be better than someone with 3 wins and one 2-way draw - and no games where he/she didn't win/draw. There are systems which punish you for losing; this isn't one of them.

Just how should players be rated? Let's look at the details. There is no possible way to give a relative chance to each country - each game's result depends on much more than how good the players are. Alliances can be based on any number of factors, whereas in a game like SQUAD LEADER, there are no alliances - it's you against your opponent (as long as the scenario is balanced!). Ratings in 2-player games can be justified through both players playing each side. To do this in Diplomacy requires over 40,000 games! (Each combination of players to countries, that is.)

What about tournaments? In Kingmaker and Empires of the Middle Ages, only a certain number advance to succeeding rounds through a score. (In KM, parliamentary strength; in EMA, victory points.) Thus, someone way behind either must catch up or give up. Remember Dipcon 82, where a previously-mentioned female was on the verge of elimination? By stalling until the end of play (time limit), she was given part of a draw of virtually equal strength with the players with more SCs, thus just about eliminating these players from any chance of winning the tournament. If the first player obviously (and by her own admission) (see the Dipcon 82 Souvenir Booklet) couldn't win, why are the others punished? Actually, under the Bumpas/Pacificon system, the opposite can happen - two players going for a 2-way draw can prolong the other players' eliminations to raise their SC averages and gain points. However, we'll just have to suffer, since the alternative is not to have Diplomacy tournaments.

DID YOU KNOW that the USPS, in the AUG/SEP PHILATELIC CATALOG, lists a postcard featuring the "Soaring Air Mail Rate"? (#0229, p.18). At ~~last~~ they admit it....

OK, enough talk on ratings. Now for something else. I saw that Phil Donahue talked with Jean Kirkpatrick about what happened to her in Berkeley. You don't know? I'll tell you. Jean Kirkpatrick was asked by the University to give two talks on some subject which I don't know about. (This took place sometime in early 1983, I think.) During her first talk, a number of students which were members of SAINTES (Students Against Intervention in El Salvador, a campus organization) began to interrupt her with heckling. She continued. So did they. It got to the point where she left the podium - and came back later to finish. The second talk was never given.

That's probably the end of the story you heard. None of you read THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN (UCB's daily newspaper), do you? Immediately after the incident, letters started coming in. Half of the letters condemned SAINTES for allowing this to happen to a University guest. The other half condemned Kirkpatrick for the UN's failure to do anything about El Salvador, and applauded the actions taken during the talk. In true Berkeley fashion, there were the nighttime rallies in Sproul Plaza. More talking. More yelling and screaming. The only things which lowered the attention level of this conflict were the \$100 surcharge ordered by the Governor and an attack by members of the Beta Theta Phi fraternity of four Chicano students. I don't know if any actions were taken by anybody as a result of the Kirkpatrick incident. I'll soon find out....

Nice, huh? OK, WAKE UP! Well, ORIGINS is over, and DIPCON was won by some FTfer, so no big deal. Next year's DIPCON follows ORIGINS to Dallas. With luck, I should be able to go to one of the eastern cons, but I'm not going to ORIGINS. More on this in upcoming months, OK? I've still got this year's PACIFICON to go to.

Speaking of September....it's football season (American football, that is, although I think the opening rounds of the F.A. Cup tournament begin right about now), and people still remember the last 4 seconds of last year's Big Game (California vs. Stanford). I got to the stadium at 10 AM, three hours before the kickoff, to get a good seat - 50-yard line, 70 rows up. A lot of people left before that final play - a lot of UNBELIEVERS. Anyway, here's the 1983 version:

September 3	- at Texas A&M	At least we don't play Washington this year.
September 10	- at San Diego State	
September 17	- SAN JOSE STATE	Who's Number 1?
September 24	- (no game)	A lot of people say North Carolina.
October 1	- ARIZONA	Street & Smith's says Nebraska.
October 8	- at Oregon	Oklahoma could do something rare - go 13-0 (including their bowl game). Remember, any team which plays Hawaii at Hawaii gets 12 regular season games instead of 11.
October 15	- OREGON STATE	
October 22	- at UCLA	
October 29	- SOUTHERN CAL (USC)	
November 5	- ARIZONA STATE	My prediction: with Herschel Walker gone, everybody ELSE counts Georgia out. Then Dawgs'll show everybody this season, at least in the UPI
November 12	- at Washington State	
November 19	- at Stanford	

poll based on my famous theory: If Georgia wins their conference, they go to the Sugar Bowl. Enough coaches will think "if I don't for the winner of the Sugar Bowl (if it's a contender), my team may not be on TV next season." Don't laugh - think about it!

LITTLE-KNOWN BUT TRUE FACTS: Did you know that Jim Meinel of THE PRINCE (#7 'zine, #6 GM) was once a possible guest GM for LOM? Only trouble was, nobody signed up for his game!

SITAKING OF SUBZINES....I'm still looking for subzines for LOM. Subzine editors receive LOM free, you know. You could always ask Scott Hanson for an orphan game, you know....then again, so could I, but you know how well my GMing is....

*****ALL PUBLISHERS PLEASE PUBLICIZE THIS LAST BIT (about the subzines)*****
(Tamlyn and Dean excepted - although a subzine from Europe would be nice)

PAGE 2 is nice... I like PAGE 2

Let me tell you a little story about a couple of people in a faraway land, one of which is a somewhat-well-known writer. Now, these two people are engaged to be married, but they're from two different beliefs, and her father is a big huge gigantic economy-size large hairy thing which can send all sorts of wrath and ire down upon our two friends, courtesy of his diety. Since our male-type friend is such a NICE guy, he won't let his fiancée risk having her father let loose with all sorts of terrible and nasty things just for him. However, he still believes in what he believes in, so he won't go as far as to not celebrate their wedding in the manner that he desires.

Now Pete Doubleday, Mike Denn, Cathy Cunnig, and a few others out there know full well what I'm referring to, but for the rest of you, here goes: Pete Tamlyn, publisher of the British 'zine The Acolyte, will soon (if not already) marry his fiancée Kathryn. Pete fancies himself, and I suppose that he, in fact, is, of a neo-Paganistic bent, and that's what kind of ceremony (or whatever it's called) he wants. HOWEVER, Kathryn's parents (well, her father isn't all the meal and nasty creature the guy in the story is) are more-or-less Christian, and that's what they want - and they can disown Kathryn if she doesq't, I suppose, so Pete, not wanting Kathryn to decide between him and her parents, decided to have two ceremonies.

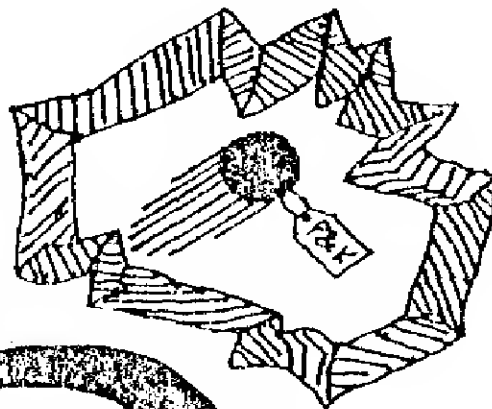
So, to command Pete & Kathryn Tamlyn (when they're married, that is - and I am using the "old-fashioned patriarchal" naming method, although they can name themselves anything they want to and that's what it will say on the mailing labels) for all of this mess and their efforts to press on despite all of this, this issue's LOM CANNON SALUTE goes to PETE & KATHRYN. And just to make sure that they can hear us in Europe, break out the BIG GUNS!

Wait a minute - where are you - No! Don't! Turn those things!! NOT IN THIS DIRECTION.....WATCH OUT!!

B

Will you look at that!
Blew a hole in a
perfectly good 'zine.

O



O

Oh, well. Congratulations
anyway. Many happy years and
all that.

"Love...is the thing that has licked 'om,
And it looks like Peter's just another victim"

-paraphrased from the musical
GUYS AND DOLLS

LATER THAN LATE NEWS....I must have been overcome
by some godly powers - but I'm now a GRAUSTARK
subber, and for CASH yet!

M

Credit cards accepted for PAGE 3

Well, the Runestone Poll results are out...let's take a look at the big winners (big dead!) for 1983:

ZINES: (1) EUROPA EXPRESS, 8.13 (2) DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT, 8.12 (that was a close one) (3) SNAFU!, 7.79

SUBZINES: (1) MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT, 8.36 (2) HUMBOLDT, in THE PRINCE, 8.14 (3) MASS MURDERS, in both RETALIATION and EUROPA EXPRESS, 7.66 - note that had CATHY'S RAMBLINGS received one vote of 8 or above extra, it would be #1.

GMs: (1) DOUG BEYERLEIN, 9.60 (2) JOHN DALY, 9.55 (3) BOB OSUCH, 9.42

ZINES WITH THE MOST VOTES: (1) VOICE OF DOOM, 54 (2) DIPLOMACY WORLD, 48 (3) DIPLOMACY DIGEST, 41

SUBZINES WITH THE MOST VOTES: (1) MOS EISLEY, 28 (2) tie between KATHY'S KORNOR and ALEX'S COLUMN (in VOICE OF DOOM), 25

GMS WITH THE MOST VOTES: (1) BRUCE LINSEY, 22 (2) JIM MEINEL, 19 (3) tie between ANDY LISCHETT and MARK LARZELERE, 15

GOLDEN TURKEYS: (3) THE SHOGUN'S SWORD, 5.30 (2) DOT HAITY, 3.72 (this 'zine was second best not too long ago) (1) BOAST, 3.53

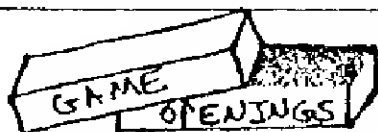
BOTTOM OF THE BARREL: (3) tie between MIKE BARNO and GUY HAIL, 5.00 (2) BILL HIGHFIELD, 4.66 (1) with a score of 3.20, this guy must be bad! Then again, I say it's too high - I only deserved a 3, considering some of the things I did last year.

And now some words by Gary Coughlan, publisher of the #1 'zine, EUROPA EXPRESS, on these results: "This is the second year in a row where Don.... has been ranked dead last. I think he's getting a bum rap from some grudge votes. Don, if you run a game in your zine where you are the GM, I want to be a player in that game." On the front cover of my copy of EE #26, Gary wrote: "I MEAN THIS!"

I'm sure Gary means well, but I don't think he realizes that my decision not to GM any more Diplomacy (at least in the near future - I could be back, you know) has nothing to do with my Leader/Runestone/whatever ranking - and out of five votes, how many grudge votes could there be? Even if one of those votes was a zero, my rating would be 4.00 - still last. Two zeros and my rating is 5.33 - 32 out of 36, even if I could get two 5s and a 6.

Of course, if you want to be in UP FRONT, I'm GMing that....

SPEAKING OF OPENINGS, Gary has two additional openings in EUROPA EXPRESS, but it'll cost. Mike Mills, 26 Laurel Road, Sloatsburgh, NY 10974, is running a "Dip Auction" which includes the chance to play in a game in EE. Send Mike a SASE for details.



AND SPEAKING OF OPENINGS....had Gary bothered to look at last issue's GAME OPENINGS section, he may not have made that comment about that "bum rap" concerning my GM rating. (Gary may also have forgotten that LOM games were originally sent only to the players, so nobody else knew how bad things were....)

DIPLOMACY - Dick Martin is still out there! He's the guest GM, I think. It's been ONE FULL YEAR since this opening first appeared. That HAS to be a record! Not only that, but it reaffirms my position as the West Coast bigwig for the ESM. (Besides, if I ever fold, I could always become a subzine in TSS, now that Cathy Cunniff is pubbing the thing.) Signed up: Michalski, Brawner, Gardner, Lucas. NO FEES WHATSOEVER, and Dick may run this outside of LOM so you don't even need a sub. (Say, Dick, how about running it in cooperation with RETAL so that it'll fill?)

MORE OPENINGS - later in the 'zine - maybe earlier? No, later

This is PAGE 4 you're opened to

ADDRESS CHANGES.....I printed Mark Matuschak's wrong address in #32.
It should be: 84 Gardner Street, Apt. 36, Boston, MA 02134.
PETE TAMLYN (& KATHRYN, of course), 2 Poplar Road, The Coppice,
AYLESBURY (Postal Code unknown), U.K.

Boy, a lot of people moved, didn't they?
Enough of that....time for A LETTER from Scott Petersen:

First of all, notice all the neat information on the other side of this sheet ((the one he sent me; not this page of LOM)). If you or anybody you know may be interested in helping out the orphan service, let me know, OK?

As for the cover of the latest LOM ((#33, featuring the salute)), well, thank for the well wishes, but they are a bit premature. Frauke just arrived on July 2nd; any wedding isn't needed until 90 days after that date, and we certainly haven't yet run off to any chapel yet. Maybe some time in September, whenever we can catch a juvenile court judge on her lunch break. However, there is another matter about that cover that Frauke would like to discuss with you.

*****OK, let's hear what Frauke Petersen has to say....

Living in such an enlightened age as ours there are certain undeniable facts that shouldn't have escaped even your computerized mind.

It may have been valid for the patriarch past that a woman was to give up her identity upon marriage. Fortunately, however, these days are gone and we are now celebrating the return of matriarchy. Today's liberated women have rediscovered the Old Testament: "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth." In this respect Scott intends to make me proud by wearing my name. This way the nominal legacy of myself and my mother will be carried on in the future.

However, some moderate liberals promote the "separate-name" solution for a truly emancipated marriage. Scott and I feel that this puts severe strains on organized data storage and processing. Therefore, though I hate to contradict you, further mail to this place will have to be addressed to Mrs. and Mr. Frauke Petersen.

*****Well, as long as Scott agrees(!!). By the way, the bit about "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" has its origins from the Code of Hammurabi: "If a man destroy the eye of another man, they shall destroy his eye." Of course, there isn't too much trouble with matriarchy - until some legal needle-nose comes in and complains that the children are supposed to have the same last name as the father's legal name, which, according to common law, doesn't change after a wedding (unless he goes through the red tape of a legal name change).

~~-DOLTON-IS-MORE-EVIL-THAN-TAMLYN-BECAUSE-EVIL-IS-A-CHRISTIAN-VICE-SUPPORT-THE-ESM--~~

MORE GAME OPENINGS - from elsewhere in the 'zine, like I said/will say.

UP FRONT, UP FRONT, UP FRONT, UP FRONT - I'm going to pound it into your heads until something falls!

SOURCE OF THE NILE, MASTERMIND - still nobody. Still waiting....

UP - look, if you say UP FRONT one more time, I'm going to shoot you.
(I took the liberty of saying that for all of you in advance)

TITAN - unfortunately, I don't own it - yet. If there's a PACIFICON, and I assume there is because my letter to PACIFICON hasn't been returned (yet, anyway), I may pick a used one up, if anybody's selling one.

SPECIAL SURPRISES....wait and see! Who knows what games lurk in the heart of this GM?

~~-WHAT-AM-I-SUPPOSED-TO-DO-WITH-THIS-EXTRA-SPACE-IT'S-HARD-ENOUGH-FILLING-THE-PAGES--~~

Just enough space to say: it's almost time (two more months, maybe 3) for the NORTH AMERICAN DIPLOMACY BOARD PROSPECTIVE HOBBYIST EXAMINATION. Has it been a year already? Well, almost. I'm also getting ready for the INTERNATIONAL PAN-DIPLOMATIC SUPER QUIZ, which may mean the NADB thing will be cancelled (so much for tradition). Aren't you excited?

PAGE 5 is really excited - it just had a heart attack

Well, DIP BOWL is a has-been thing around here, at least for now, but there's a brand new series coming your way, loaded with charm, plus maybe even some of the stuff that made the original DIP BOWL what it once was....

whoooooOOSH! "John Car-" CRASH! "Was that John Caruso? Here comes the next one...." zzzzzZZZZAP! "Gary Coughlan!" zzzzzZZZZING! "Mark Berch!" eeeeeEEYYOWWW! "BRUX, don't act so scared!" beinnnnNNNGGG! "John Michalski!" screeeeEEEEEECH! "Look out! Dick Martin, learn how to drive!"

Not just any ordinary six - not even the IN-SIX - these are the

BATTLESTABS

(not to be confused with BATTLESTARS, or THE NEW BATTLESTARS, each of which lasted 13 weeks - even DREAM HOUSE beat that!)

"Thank you, thank you, and welcome to the biggest bunch of filler since homemade chili, BATTLESTABS. How are all of you today?"

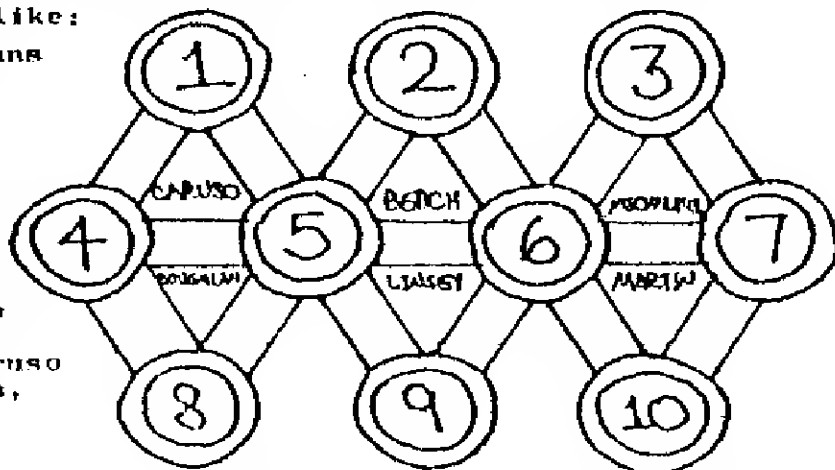
"Finethanksgoodmounwownhuharb"

"Same to you. And now, here are our contestants: first, a certified public nuisance straight out of UCLA, of course, Paul Somebody, and over here, a black-market video movie dealer and part-time Brooklyn Bridge jumper, Joanne Overhere. (NOTE: Contestants do not represent members of the hobby unless their actual names are used - any similarities are coincidental. Celebrities do indeed represent actual hobby members or ex-members; however, all material appearing in BATTLESTABS is not necessarily based on fact, but is just what the author - me - happened to think up at the time. If you don't want your name used in this series, let me know - otherwise, you take your chances, although nobody ever reads these things, and besides, people liked DIP BOWL and it had 25% more hobbyists per issue. Hokay?)

"Since this is the FIRST episode, here's how it works: it's an awful lot like BATTLESTARS with an R, but I'll explain. See those 6 triangles? Now, those 10 numbers are at the vertices - well, the corners of the triangles. The player that takes off the third number of a triangle captures that celebrity. Capture three, and you win, allowing you to go on for all sorts of neat things which you'll probably have to sell to pay the taxes on. To take off numbers, whoever is in control at the time selects a number on the board, usually at random. One of the celebs touching the number is asked a question; there are 2 answers, and the celeb chooses one. You, not knowing the other answer, must guess whether the given answer is right or wrong. If it's right, you remain in control and may select any remaining number arbitrarily; if you blow it, your opponent takes control, and if the number would have given you one or more triangles, it remains lit. If you are wrong but it doesn't complete a triangle, it comes off anyway."

Here's what the board looks like:

So, for example, number 1 means a question for John Caruso, while 7 means one for either Michalski or Martin. NOTE: If one or more of the celebs can be captured by that number immediately, only one of those celebs can answer the question. For example, if 1 and 4 are out and 5 is chosen, John Caruso must take the question; if 1,4,6,9 are out and 5 is chosen, John Caruso or Bruce Linsey may be chosen, but not Mark Berch or Gary Coughlan.



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TRADE/SUB/WHATEVER

XENOGOGIC

NOTES:

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I

"So much for the rules...and now right down to the action! OK, Joanne, call this coin in the air." Joanne stands on her chair, jumps off, and yells "10 pence!"

"That's right - it is indeed a 10p coin. You begin in control, so press your button when you want to stop the random number thingy." BOOM.

"Not so hard! Number 8 - a question for Gary C from Memphis T."

"Hay, y'all."

"OK, Gary, here goes: in the 1958 DIPLOMACY map, one province which was on the map but not a supply center became a supply center on the modern map. Which province?"

"Just one thing: what's a province?"

Answers: TUNIS or PORTUGAL

"Well, this one may screw the Italians, but this one screws the French and English....Portugal."

"OK, Joanne, is it Portugal?"

"I'll believe Gary - yes."

BUZZZZ "No, the correct answer is Tunis, which only goes to prove that we don't have to worry about the South rising again. Anyway, number 8 is out, and Paul is in control....number 3, so John Michalski gets the question, and keep in mind that you're from the SouthWEST. Anyway, here's a question about poles - not Poles nor polls, but poles. You're at Melbourne Cricket Grounds watching Australian Rules Football. Somebody is trying to score a 6-point goal by hitting it between two poles which are themselves between two poles. The ball hits a pole that borders the 6-point area and bounces back. How many points for that?"

Answers: ONE or THREE

"Well, isn't that the place where they put water in cans and call it FOSTER'S LAGER? It isn't water? Well, they drink a lot of it, and I hear that it doesn't have much taste, but anyone that crazy probably gives three for a near miss."

"Three points - right, Paul?"

"I never miss ESPN - you only get one, so he's wrong."

DING "One is right, and you're in control, so choose a number - 7 borders John Michalski and Dick Martin, so choose one....Okay, John, another one."

"What, I'm not good enough? You've done him already!" complains Dick.

"Oh, shut up. Here we go again: What has 3000 counters, a 96x22 map, and 144 pages of rules which has gone through 10 separate volumes?"

"Bruce Linsey's house rules?"

Answers: CAMPAIGN FOR NORTH AFRICA or THE SQUAD LEADER SERIES

"No wonder Greenwood doesn't do THE GENERAL any more! THE SQUAD LEADER SERIES."

"OK, Paul, is that right?"

"Well, it's either that or EUROPA....I'll believe him."

DING "Two for two! Next number?....Number 6, to capture John. Ready, John? Well, neither are we, but here goes: Germany and Austria-Hungary each get a fleet in DIPLOMACY, but how many fleets can they get together in THE GUNS OF AUGUST?"

Answers: AN UNLIMITED NUMBER or NONE WHATSOEVER

"Well, the game stinks, so I'm not quite sure, so I'll trust Calhomer's judgment and say an unlimited number."

"An unlimited number....to capture John, is he right?"

"He's lucky - I have played THE GUNS OF AUGUST, and he's wrong."

DING "The answer is that the Central Powers don't get fleets, and you have your first star. Next?...Number 10, for Dick. WAKE UP! Here's the question: in the only game of 'Second Chance Diplomacy' ever played, the result was a draw between Austria and Turkey. Mike Barne was Austria at the end of the game - but who ended the game as Turkey?"

Answers: NOBODY or MARK LEW

"Uh, you've got the same thing twice here. Besides, that game was in LIFE OF MONTY, and who reads those games? I'll never forget how I played 5 short in 1903.- Anyway, nobody played Turkey."

"For a 2-0 lead, is he right?"

"He did say LIFE OF MONTY?"

"That's right."

"That explains it - it must be true."

DING "Believe it or not, Dave Carter resigned as Turkey, so it was in CD one season before the draw passed - because everyone NMR'd. Now you've

The PACIFICON question isn't
IF or WHEN - just WHERE

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got a choice.....number 5, huh? Choose one of the four stars....I must agree that Berch stands out somehow, but then again, Gods tend to do that. We planned to have Robert Sacks along as well, but it might have annoyed the monotheists or whatever they're called. OK, Mark, we'll make this quick in case your wife decides to go into early labor: you know as well as I do that Don Del Grande of LIFE OF MONTY fame is a terrible Diplomacy GM. However, he can actually GM Diplomacy better than he can do this. What?"

"Find seven people to play a game in the first place?"

Answers: TELL JOKES IN KATHY'S KORNOR or GM EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

"I saw the latest WHITESTONIA - he can't tell jokes in KK."

"Does that sound right?"

"I read the latest KK - it must be true! There's nothing worse!"

BUZZ "Tell it to John Boardman, Larry Reagan, and Bob Olsen - all players in his EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES game. OK, Joanne, you're back in the game, and keep in mind that Berch is not the God he's cracked up to be - after all, was the baby 'immaculately conceived', Mark?"

"Are you kidding? It's no fun that way...."

"Uh, number 1 lights up, so a question for John Caruso."

"The answer is Kathy, so can I go home?"

"At least listen to the question. Remember Pug Bocarsley? What did he do for the Diplomacy Hobby?"

Answers: WIN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP or LEAD TO JACK MASTERS' DOWNFALL

"Pug Bocarsley, the greatest Diplomacy player in the world? He won the world championship, of course."

"Did Pug win the championship?"

"Well, it was either Pug or James Thurber....I'll agree."

BUZZ "Thanks to Pug, and a few others, BLACK FROG turned green or something. Back to Paul in control....number 9, and one for Earl of Linseed - er, Oil of Linsey - whatever. Everybody seems to know everything about a Diplomacy map - except for its size. What is the area, in square inches, since you're a mathematician, of an Avalon Hill Diplomacy Board?"

"Can I have Alex solve the problem? She needs the work."

Answers: 528 or 561

"Let's see...three boards of 2x8 1/2 x 11 is 561"

"For the match and a chance to get out of here, is that right?"

"From someone ranked 24th in the poll? That's wrong."

DING "BRUX, the map is 6 sides of 11x8, not 8 1/2. The answer is 528....

hey, we've got a winner, and his name is....Paul Somebody! We have to say goodbye to Joanne Overhere. Well, what did you think of it?"

"Well,--"

"Oh, shut up and get lost. We don't want to see losers cluttering up the stage. Martin, get back here! I'm referring to the contestants! Anyway, you won with John Michalski, Dick Martin, and Bruce Linsey, so these three guys will try and help you win all sorts of junk, including a used car from the Bismarck Motor Co. of Rockville, MD, and 5000 Confederate dollars in CASH. Well, maybe not, but who will ever know? OK, choose one of the three captured stars."

"Why do you call them stars?"

"They like to think they're bright, and you can't look directly at them for very long."

"I'll take Linseed Oil."

"A slick choice - no, that's for Roy Henricks. Anyway, here goes: what is the minimum number of cards dealt before the start of a KINGMAKER game - 32 or 35?"

"Well, with 5 players, you get 35, so I'll say that."

"No, I think it's 32."

BUZZ "Can 99 zillion loyal screaming doonies worship someone who blows every question? OK, choose again."

"Dick Martin."

"Well, why not? Dick, what does THE FALL OF FRANCE have that THIRD REICH, GLOBAL WAR, WORLD WAR II, and AXIS & ALLIES don't - the Swiss Army or the Maginot Line?"

"Well, the Maginot Line is in THIRD REICH, so I'll say the Swiss Army."

"You call that the Maginot Line? I'll say that THE FALL OF FRANCE has the Maginot Line."

BUZZ "So does THIRD REICH. Where do you think Swiss Army Knives come from? That leaves John Michalski. Here goes, John: at the recent

Is this PAGE 8 or a piece of swiss cheese?

World Athletics Championships in Helsinki, the first country to enter the stadium was Afghanistan. How many athletes - one or twenty?" "Afghanistan showed up? I suppose that only one person could escape." "No, the Soviets would send 20 to make us think that they're doing fine with the country."

BUZZ "Only 1 made it, I suppose. Let's see....zero for three. That means you have to settle for dinner for 4 at PudgeCon in Kansas somewhere out there."

ZZZZZZZZZZ "Who's asleep? What? Out of time already? Well, we'll be back next time with another visit with the BATTLESTARS...."

Well, how was that? A lot of people were tired of DIP BOWL, you know, even though Gary Coughlan liked it - how is this, Gary? Forgot Dip Bowl already, huh?

~~-A-LONG-TIME-AGO-IN-A-GALAXY-SOMEWHERE-NEAR-HERE-WHATEVER-DEFTIES-PETE-TAALYN-----~~
~~-BELIEVES-IN-CREATED-WOMEN-TO-PLAY-DIPLOMACY-WHILE-THE-MEN-GOT-DOWN-TO-REAL-----~~
~~-WARGAMES-NOW-IN-1983-THEY-HAVE-FINALLY-GOTTEN-THE-MESSAGE-and for those of you~~
who say "Well, Ruth Glaspey won a contest in STRUGGLE OF NATIONS", please note that her answer was WRONG - when I won the MAGIC REALM contest, my answer was CORRECT. I also got the CROSS OF IRON contest right, but lost in the random draw. I also would have had the second CRESCENDO OF DOOM contest except for the fact that I assumed that the tank could foresight one of the hexes needed for the infantry move....

**DIP
WARZ**

When we last left the Diplomatic Hebels, they were being tracked on the planetary fortress of Grabar The Hott while searching for THE BOURSE en route to the TRUE FINAL ABSOLUTE UNIMPEACHABLE UNIMPEACHABLE UNINGRAPEFRUITABLE REBEL VICTORY.

"You heard him!" the voice of Lord Sacks Fifthavenue booms throughout the new Diplomatic Empire flagship, the DIPLOMACY DIGESTED, under the command of Yawn Boring, once a master in the ways of The Bourse until he was taken over by the Left Side. "With all those capital letters, it's urgent that they be destroyed! Let's see some top-to-bottom, side-to-side, A-to-Z efficiency around here!" A call comes up from the British and Canadian sectors. "The first two we know - but what is 'A to Zee'?"

"You know, Z! The thing after Y!"

"We hate to bring this up, but the thing after Y is 'Zed'."

"WHAT?!" You're right about one thing - you're about to hate bringing it up! Oh well, the foreigners dragged the story anyway....never could trust Intercontinental Intergalactic Mail, anyway. But back to the story....back on the Nuclear Holocaust planet, the search was on for the Bourse.

Suddenly, the skies darkened - hey, that's not supposed to happen! "That's The Bourse - get it right, why don't you?"

OK, OK, The Bourse. The skies cleared again. Ohoo-1 Caruso got out the wooden block holding the key to The Bourse. "It's pointing that way - what does that mean?"

Princess Luscious had the usual snappy answer: "On a Grabar planet, it means 'go in the other direction', of course."

"It's amazing we've gone this far," sighs John Poleo, "with her along."

"I haven't got a long - don't tell me you're that much out of it!"

Parental discretion is advised for this series. (Rated PG in the United States, AA in Great Britain)

"Enough already - follow The Bourse, OK? Now, straight ahead....no, a little to the left....keep going....now a hair to the right....make that two hairs....that's more like it, now go straight....hold it.... Hold it....HOLD IT!!!!"

Grabar the Hott turns to Ohoo-1. "What, you want us to stop or something?"

A cue for ILOM, as he turns to Calberchian. "Danger! Danger! You bubbleheaded boob, you've triggered Imperial radar screens again. Impact with thermonuclear nukes estimated at 1 minute 37.95 seconds."

"Analyze and report weaponry, and lay low on the cracks."

"Thermonuclear nukes launched in sufficient quantity, size and accuracy to destroy area equivalent to approximately 15 percent of the area of

No nukes on this PAGE 9 - it's solar-powered

this planet. Further-" CLICK

"Better save your strength. Bubbleheaded booby, indeed. Everybody aboard the ship - prepare for emergency takeoff.....10....9....8....7654321"

The resulting noise shook the entire planet and who knows how much else. "I knew I shouldn't have eaten chili last night....now let's launch the ship."

I told you what this was rated, didn't I? Anyway, the ship went off with a real BLAST. There's a new crater on that planet, by the way. Back on the DIPLOMACY DIGESTED, Yawn Boring gets the latest report.

"Sir, unidentified rebel craft detected leaving the Pathetic Planet at incredible speeds - approaching warp 0.5."

"Warp 0.5 is unbelievable? I almost forgot - these are the rebels. Full intercept - they shall not get away this time! Load towels AND thermonuclear nukes AND our new impressive incredible amazing and not to mention expensive thingy."

"The THINGY, sir? Are you sure?"

"Are you questioning ME? Take this!"

"EEEEEEAAAAAAUUUGGGHHH" and other assorted dying noises in this space.

"You heard me! Load everything we've got!"

While we're waiting for the Diplomatic Empire to load that junk, I - why did everything go black again?

"JUNK, huh?"

OK, I'm sorry about that. (Light) That's better. But not for the rebels.

"Where did that Imperial ship come from? Turn on ILOM for analysis...."

"As I was saying, the thermonuclear nukes are capable of tracking and destroying 20 ships of this size without heavy breathing."

"It's a good thing," replies Princess L, "that there's only 1 ship and not 20, or we'd be in trouble."

"Shall I turn off ILOM or her?"

Now that those weapons are loaded, it's time for the launching. "Ready weapons....distance and direction determined and corrected....tracking systems ON....detonation SET....coffee!"

Wait a minute - what's that thing in the sky?

"I don't see anything," says Yawn Boring.

"Neither do I," says John Poleo.

I'm talking about the sky I'm looking at - it looks like a - it can't be - OH NO, IT IS - WATCH OUT!

THUD



Just what I needed - when things get exciting, THIS happens. I wonder what happened with the big super

weapon thingy aimed at the Rebel ship....

"Boy," says Princess Luscious, "what an escape!"

"NO!" screams Yawn Boring. "It's all YOUR fault!"

Who, ME?

"Prepare for THE CONSEQUENCES!"

Oh, yeah? Take this....CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

"Not again!...."

--BOY-I-CERTAINLY-DO-USE-A-LOT-OF-THOSE-PERIODS-AND-THERE-WERE-A-LOT-OF-CANNONBALLS--

Oh well, there's no PICTURE FEATURE this time, because I didn't have enough room. Before the Flying Circus stuff, there's just enough time to remind you that there are openings available in DIPLOMACY, SON, MM, and, of course, UP FRONT. Also, subzines are being sought out for this rag, so if you're the "I could be a pubber but I don't have time to do a full 'zine" type, here's your chance!

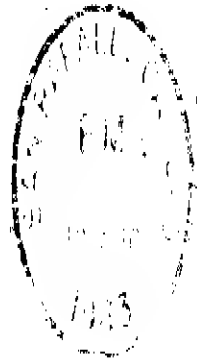
OK, so much for the formalities....once again, I intend to remind all of you why it's called what this 'zine is called. What is it called?

Good evening, and welcome to STAKE YOUR CLAIM. And first this evening, we have Mr. Norman Bowles of Graves End. Mr. Bowles claims that he wrote all of William Shakespeare's works. Mr. Bowles, I understand that you wrote all of those plays normally attributed to Shakespeare.

That is correct. I wrote all of his plays, and my wife and I wrote his sonnets.

Mr. Bowles, these plays are known to have been performed in the early

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